

therebetween with the mop bucket sized to fit at least a portion of the mop bucket within the recess so as to nest between said spaced front legs.

6. (Amended) A detachable trolley and bucket combination comprising:
  - a) a mop bucket having front and rear pairs of outrigger legs terminating in wheels for independent movement of the bucket over a floor surface; the outrigger legs having inwardly angled faces joining the bucket;
  - b) a utility trolley adapted for carrying cleaning supplies and having a frame supported by front and rear legs terminating in wheels for independent movement of the trolley over a floor surface, the front legs being spaced a distance accommodating positioning of at least a portion of the mop bucket therebetween;
  - c) a connection mechanism between the front of the trolley and the mop bucket and including engaging arms associated with the trolley front legs and configured to selectively grasp one of the pairs of bucket outrigger legs, the engaging legs being biased to an engagement position and having a portion for contact with a person's foot so that said engaging legs release [releasing] the outrigger legs upon application of foot pressure, wherein the bucket may be selectively joined to the trolley and wheeled about as a unit.

Add the following claims:

7. A detachable trolley and mop bucket combination comprising a mop bucket having wheels thereon and movable over a floor surface and a trolley having a frame adapted for carrying cleaning supplies, the trolley having wheels thereon for moving over a floor surface, the trolley and the bucket separately and independently movable and having a connection between them for selective attachment to securely connect the mop bucket to the trolley so that the combined trolley and bucket can be easily maneuvered by one person; the trolley having spaced front legs terminating in wheels and forming a recess therebetween with the mop bucket sized to fit at least a portion of the mop bucket within the recess; the bucket being supported on front

and rear pairs of outrigger legs with the wheels mounted at ends of the legs, and the outrigger legs fitting within the trolley recess; a connection mechanism extending between the spaced front legs of the trolley and the outrigger legs of the bucket received within the trolley recess; the connection mechanism consisting of a pair of arms that engage the outrigger legs of the bucket, the outrigger legs being angled and the engaging arms being shaped to match the angles of the outrigger legs, the engaging arms being biased to an engagement position by a return spring and having a portion for contact with a person's foot so that a person may press downwardly upon the arm portion and disengage the arms from connection with the outrigger legs in order to remove the bucket.

8. A detachable trolley and mop bucket combination comprising a mop bucket supported by wheels thereon and movable over a floor surface and a trolley having a frame adapted for carrying cleaning supplies, the trolley supported by wheels thereon for moving over a floor surface, the trolley and the bucket separately and independently movable and having a connection between them for selective attachment to securely connect the mop bucket to the trolley so that the combined trolley and bucket can be easily maneuvered by one person, the trolley having spaced front wheels and forming a receiving area therebetween with the mop bucket sized to nest at least a portion of the mop bucket within said recess and between said front wheels.

Remarks:

The examiner's action and cited references have been carefully reviewed. Applicant appreciates the careful consideration given to the application by the examiner. Applicant's prior search appeared to be substantially correct and applicant notes that the examiner was only able to find one additional relevant reference, Wells '761. Kresse, et al. '528 was disclosed to the examiner by applicant and is the type of device intended by applicant to improve upon. Applicant has amended claims 1, 2 and 6 and added claims 7 and 8. Applicant contests the examiner's

determination of obviousness based upon a combination of the Kresse, et al. '528 and Wells '761 patents and below argues to the examiner that the references cannot be properly combined so as to make applicant's claimed invention obvious or if combined, would result in a structure different than claimed.

Applicant appreciates the indication that claim 5 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form. That has been done in added claim 7, which comprises old claims 1 through 5 combined with verb tense changed as necessary for grammatical purposes.

Claim 6 has been amended to include some of the elements of old claim 5 which are believed to overcome the Section 112 indefiniteness rejection. Accordingly, independent claims 6 and 7 are believed in condition for allowance. The remaining claims are 1 through 5 and 8. Claims 1 and 2 have been amended to better point out the distinctive qualities of applicant's invention. Similarly, claim 8 is an independent claim which is substantially the combination of claims 1 and 2 and is drafted so as to point out the distinctive qualities of an embodiment of applicant's invention. Claim 1 remains the broadest claim and as argued below is patentable over the art of record. Claims 3, 4 and 5 are dependent, directly or indirectly, from claim 2 and are believed patentable therewith.

Generally phrased, independent claim 1 as amended calls for a detachable bucket and trolley combination comprising a mop bucket supported by wheels and moveable over a floor surface and a trolley also supported by wheels and moveable over a floor surface. The trolley and the bucket are independently moveable and connect to each other so as to securely connect the mop bucket to the trolley so that the unitary or combined trolley and bucket can be easily maneuvered by one person. The examiner apparently concurs that this combination is not anticipated by the prior art of record. Applicant most certainly believes that the claimed device is not anticipated by the prior art of record and has determined that the claimed combination provides significant advantages in the janitorial trade. The combined trolley and bucket combination can be safely wheeled from one location to another without the necessity to make multiple trips and with having everything a cleaning person would need. Applicant believes that its invention is a great time saver and offers significant advantages to a purchaser of the product who is often shorthanded in maintenance staff and seeks to maximize productivity.

In analysis of claim 1, the examiner applied Kresse, et al. '528. However, the Kresse trailer 2 is not supported by wheels and moveable over a floor surface nor is it independently moveable.

Rather, it is merely a two-wheeled trailer in which a pair of trailer wheels are at the remote end of the trailer and upon disconnection from the trolley 1, the trailer is not useful. Applicant believes the examiner misinterpreted the recess or nesting disclosure of Kresse, et al. '528. Rather, and contrary to the examiner's position, Kresse et al. does not provide a recess at all. The examiner referred to a "recess 11" but in fact 11 is characterized as the rear end (column 4, line 9) of the main trolley 1. Fig. 2 is explanatory wherein the trolley is on the right and the trailer on the left. The connection between the Kresse et al. trolley and trailer is merely a double hook and eye attachment. Referring to Fig. 1, it is clear that the wheels 4 on the front of the trolley 1 are positioned under the front end and the trailer 2 mounted forwardly of the trolley 1. Therefore, as set forth in amended claim 2, there is no recess which is between the front wheels 4 in Kresse et al. and no way that the trailer 2 nests or is received in the "recess" between the front wheels, there being no recess to nest the trailer in.

Wells '761 has as its point of invention, a U-shaped clip which connects two mop buckets so that the mop buckets may be wheeled about in secure connection. The Wells mop buckets are each four-wheeled. That is, they are independently and fully supported on the floor surface and are better for the examiner's purposes than the trailer 2 of Kresse in that they are fully wheeled vehicles. The examiner refers to Wells column 1, lines 20 - 25 as providing the motivation to substitute the Wells mop bucket for the trailer in Kresse. Specifically, the passage referred to by the examiner is as follows:

"Accordingly, a principal object of the present invention is the provision of a connector operable to join a pair of mop buckets in a unitary assembly, whereby they may be wheeled about by transportation as a single bucket, thereby greatly reducing the amount of labor involved."

Thus, the motivation described in Wells is to connect two mop buckets together and Wells says nothing about connecting a trolley and a mop bucket. Indeed, the motivation in Wells is stated to be to create a "single bucket", not to create a selectively unitary trolley and bucket as provided by applicant. Therefore, Wells is silent concerning the combination, motivation, teaching or any other suggestion about selectively combining a mop bucket and trolley. Following the teachings of Wells, one would clip together two trolleys in a train fashion to create a simple trolley. That is not what applicant claims, as so Wells reaches away from applicant's claimed device. The combination of Kresse and Wells fails to provide *prima facie* obviousness. Applicant's solution of a selectively

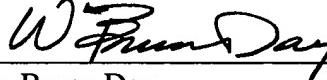
standing problem of long felt need. The examiner's combination of two same objects in Wells, and as taught by Wells, cannot be properly used to make obvious the dissimilar of independent mop bucket and trolley in applicant's claim 1.

The recess/nesting claims 2 and 8 are believed allowable, as the applied prior art fails to show any type of recessing or nesting companion articles between the front wheels/legs of the first article by the second article as claimed by applicant. Claim 1 does not require a recess or a nesting but is allowable for different reasons. Those reasons discussed above, provide compelling reasons to the examiner to again carefully review the basis for the examiner's prior rejection and allow claim 1 in view of the amendment thereto and the arguments made in support.

The application containing claims 1 through 8 is believed in condition for a notice of allowance. To the extent telephone communication with applicant's attorney may be helpful to resolve any outstanding matters, a call is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,  
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